

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04319 080833Z

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 702

UNCLAS LISBON 4319

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL
CRITICIZES GENERAL ANTONIO DE SPINOLA

1. SPECIAL SUNDAY (DIA DO TRABALHO) EDITION OF EVENING "DIARIO POPULAR" REPORTED OCTOBER 6 A SPEECH GIVEN IN SACAEM PRESUMABLY OCTOBER 5 BEFORE A CROWD OF NEARLY TEN THOUSAND IN WHICH PCP LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL ATTACKED FORMER PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT ANTONIO DE SPINOLA FOR TRYING TO SET UP A "PERSONAL AND MILITARY DICT -ATORSHIP" IN PORTUGAL. CUNHAL SAID THAT SPINOLA WAS "SHOWING A TENDENCY TO RESTRICT THE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF THE CITIZENS AND TO CENTRALIZE POWER AROUND HIMSELF." CUNHAL ALSO MADE SIMILAR REMAKRS IN AN INTERVIEW FOR THE FRENCH NEWSPAPER "LE MONDE."

2. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST EVEIDENCE OF CRITICISM OF SPINOLA TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS. FRANCISCO BALSEMAO, EXPRESSO DIRECTOR, TOLD US THAT PRIME MINISTER VASCO DOS SANTOS GONCALVES CALLED NEWSPAPER EDITORS RECENTLY AND CAUTIONED THEM NOT TO PRINT ANY CRITICISM OF SPINOLA. A HANDBILL WAS CIRCULATED SEPT. 30 BY THE NATIONAL UNION OF OFFICE WORKERS OF THE MERCHANT MARINE, AERO-NAVIGATION, AND FISHING INDUSTRIES (SINDICATO NACIONAL DOE EMPREGADOS DOS SERVICOS ADMINISTRATIVOS DA MARINHA MERCANTE, AERONAVEGACAO E PESCA) CALLING FOR THE ARREST OF SPINOLA, BUT THE PRESS DID NOT PICK UP THE ITEM.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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